(g) The proposed contract crop should have a distinct advantage in terms of relative yield and profit, which will provide higher income to the contract farmers on stable basis.

The report of the Task Force was discussed in the National Conference on Agricultural Marketing Reforms held on 27th September, 2002. Since the subject falls within the purview of the State Governments, they were requested to go ahead with the implementation of the reform measures as suited to them.

Establishment of fodder banks

4342. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing Central funds to the States for the establishment of Fodder Banks in the States to meet the exigencies in natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released to Gujarat, so far, for the purpose and results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUM DEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2002-2003 the State of Karnataka, J & K and Uttaranchal were granted Rs.13.55 lakhs, Rs. 55.50 lakhs and Rs. 54.60 lakhs respectively for establishment of fodder banks.

(c) Government of Gujarat was sanctioned an amount of Rs.79.00 lakhs for two fodder banks during 1999-2000. The State of Gujarat has furnished the fund utilization Certificate for Rs. 26.34 lakhs only.

Import of seeds

4343. MISS PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have to import seeds of improved varieties, in order to meet shortages;

(b) if so, the total number of varieties of seeds imported during the last three years and the amount spent thereon; and

(c) the details of its distribution, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c): Do not arise.